

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7959

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3296

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BRIEFED ON ADMISSION OF
NORTH KOREA TO IPU

SUMMARY DRP ASSEMBLYMAN PAK CHUN- KYU BRIEFED ASSEMBLY
MAY 23 ON NORTH KOREAN ENTRY TO IPU AND WIDER IMPLICA-
TIONS OF THIS EVENT FOR ROK POLICY. PAK SAID IT WAS TIME FOR ROK
TO CHANGE POLICY OF ASSERTING ITS SOLE LEGITIMACY, AND
THAT NORTH KOREAN ENTRY INTO IPU HOLDS ADVANTAGES FOR
ROK TOO. PAK ' S REMARKS SEEM DESIGNED TO PREPARE
ASSEMBLY FOR POSSIBLE POLICY CHANGES TO COME.

1. DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN PAK CHUN- KYU, WHO LED
ROK DELEGATION TO RECENT IPU MEETING IN ABIDJAN, BRIEFED
ASSEMBLY MAY 23 ON BACKGROUND TO NARTH KOREAN
ADMISSION TO IPU AND WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS
EVENT FOR ROK POLICY. ALTHOUGH REPORTERS WERE PRESENT
(AS WAS EMBASSY FSL WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING ACCOUNT)
NEWS REPORTS DESCRIBED SESSION AS CLOSED AND GAVE NO
DETAILS OF PAK' S REMARKS.
2. PAK ROLD THE ASSEMBLY IT WAS IMMEDIATELY APPARENT
IN ABIDJAN THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD AMPLE SUPPORT AND THAT
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THE ROK PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE AGAIN WAS IN TROUBLE, SINCE EVEN THE REDUCED NUMBER OF FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS WERE RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN LOBBYING FOR ROK. HE DESCRIBED SESSION WHICH TOOK UP KOREAN ITEM AS A CONFUSED AFFAIR, IN WHICH ROK WOUND UP HAVING TO INTRODUCE ITS OWN MOTION FOR POSTPONEMENT WHEN BELGIAN LEGISLATORS BACKED OFF AT THE LAST MINUTE.

3. PAK SAID THAT SITUATION AT ABIDJAN WAS SYMPTOMATIC OF CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN WORLD. FOR 25 YEARS THE ROK HAS BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UN RECOGNITION OF IT AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN KOREA. NOW, HOWEVER, IT WAS TIME FOR ROK TO COME OUT OF THIS COCOON AND ADJUST ITS POLICIES TO THE CURRENTS OF PRESENT DAY REALITIES.

4. PAK ASSERTED THAT NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO THE IPU WAS NOT WITHOUT ADVANTAGES TO THE ROK. WITH NORTH KOREA IN THE IPU, THE ROK WOULD NOW BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEMAND THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BEGIN TO DEAL WITH IT. THIS WOULD OPEN UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR A FLEXIBLE ROK DIPLOMACY. PAK NOTED THAT AT ABIDJAN HE HAD POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH ROK, DESPITE GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF PYONGYANG AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT IN REPLY A BULGARIAN DELEGATE HAD STATED THAT FIRST THE NORTH KOREANS SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THEN CONTACTS BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH THE ROK MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

5. COMMENT: PAK'S REMARKS APPEAR TO BE A FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT OF THE NEED FOR THE ROK TO CHANGE ITS POLICY VIS A VIS NORTH KOREA, AT LEAST TO THE POINT OF ACCEPTING PYONGYANG'S PRESENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE SESSION WAS CLOSED, HIS STATEMENTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GAIN WIDE CIRCULATION AMONG THE INFORMED PUBLIC.

6. PAK'S OBSERVATIONS SEEM DESIGNED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR POLICY CHANGES. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD HAVE OFFERED THEM TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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